The Fair Share Concept

“My Fair Share contribution represents my own tuition at Hyde.” — a Hyde father

Fair Share is almost as old as Hyde School itself. In short, we ask each Hyde family to consider a contribution, at a suggested amount of $2,500 or more, to Hyde’s Annual Fund. During the 2012 fiscal year, current parents donated over $500,000 to the Bath and Woodstock Annual Funds through Fair Share.

Why Fair Share? It is not unusual for new parents to regard our request with some suspicion, especially if they have already written a tuition check to the school. Our parents soon discover that Hyde’s commitment to the families of our students is unusually far-reaching. We believe that the home is the primary classroom and parents are the primary teachers. Thus, we seek to educate the entire family, and devote considerable resources to this effort. For example, we built and now maintain the Family Renewal Center, a facility which houses and educates 15 to 20 parents each week during the school year. In addition, there are four individuals on the payroll who devote their primary attention to parents and family education. Fair Share helps pay for these and other costs of family education. As one father recently said, “My Fair Share contribution represents my tuition at Hyde.”

Some have asked why we do not simply build the parental cost into the tuition. While we have considered this notion, we also strive to keep Hyde’s tuition on the low side of most New England boarding schools. We also understand that some families cannot afford a contribution of $2,500 or more. On the other hand, some families can afford it and do give more than the recommended $2,500 amount.

For over a quarter century, Fair Share has successfully supported scholarships for families, helped cover annual operating costs, and costs of campus maintenance projects in dormitories, modernized science laboratories, and a gymnasium. Unlike public schools, independent schools like Hyde operate without any financial support from local, state, or federal governments. As is true at all independent schools, tuition alone does not provide sufficient funds to meet all annual costs. Annual contributions help bridge the gap, and Fair Share is a major part of the Annual Fund.

We hope you will consider Fair Share as an investment in the personal growth of each member of your family. I doubt there is any school in the country where parents feel the strong tie felt by the parents of Hyde students. The growing membership and activity of the Hyde Alumni Parents Association (HAPA) is a testament to the role that the Family Learning Center plays in the lives of Hyde’s parents. Thus, Fair Share asks you to make an investment in your own future—an investment that will benefit you, your child, and your family. Please contact Director of Development, Erin Brown, if you would like to discuss the Fair Share concept.

Malcolm W. Gauld, President